

Business forum held in Biddeford.

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BIDDEFORD — Lawmakers met with business owners Wednesday to get advice as Democrats prepare a plan to improve the state's business climate.

The forum, hosted by House Majority Leader John Richardson, was the last of seven held statewide to unveil plans compiled by a working group of House Democrats. Spokesman David Connerty-Marin said more than a dozen area business representatives attended the session at Correct Building Products.

"We feel we have a pretty good idea of what needs to be done for small business," said Connerty-Marin, adding that business leaders have made a number of recommendations. "There's been really good

feedback on the action plan."

Presentations were made by Richardson and other legislators, including Reps. Nancy Sullivan and Stephen Beaudette, both of Biddeford. In a press release, Sullivan said the forums would help the working group draft proposals to improve business conditions here.

"By January, we hope to turn these ideas into legislation that can help our businesses thrive in Maine," she said.

The action plan, which is posted online

(www.maine housedems.org/business) includes 23 specific ideas, including a business assistance hotline, reduced paperwork requirements and an entrepreneurship curriculum at community colleges.

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